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April 9, 2018

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# Department of Art to host graphic designer Ambica Prakash for artist talk April 17 in Statesboro

APRIL 9, 2018

The Georgia Southern University Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) will host graphic designer Ambica Prakash for an artist talk Tuesday, April 17, on the Statesboro Campus, Arts Building room 2071, at 5 p.m.

Driven by the desire to make a positive impact in the world, Prakash is the principal and creative director at Eighty2degrees, a communications agency that seeks to drive social change through design. Based in Washington, D.C., Prakash's passion for design and dedication to her community has led her to collaborate with multiple nonprofit organizations, including the United Nations Foundation. Prakash also serves on the board of directors for the American Institute of Graphic Arts.



"Design has become a field highly entangled with the surrounding world, where not only graphics are designed, but entire systems and forms of engagement," said Jason Hoelscher, BFSDoArt gallery director. "Ambica's focus on the many ways design works on the screen and the page, and out in the world, will be very inspiring for our graphic design students to hear about."

Prakash received her Bachelors of Fine Arts at the University of Delhi in India, and later received a scholarship to further her education in the United States, where she earned a Master of Fine Arts in graphic design at Indiana University. Soon after, Prakash conducted extensive research for service-learning as a way to create a stronger relationship between universities and their communities, but also to teach social responsibility within graphic design. Prakash uses her personal experiences and influences as her base inspiration for her work.

For more information on the BFSDoArt, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/art](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/art).

*Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).*

Tags: [Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art](#), [BFSDoArt](#)

# Georgia Southern's Economic Monitor reports continued growth despite hurricane

APRIL 9, 2018

Georgia Southern University's latest Coastal Empire Economic Monitor, which analyzes data and identifies trends affecting the regional economy, reports that the Savannah metro economy closed out 2017 with moderate growth, while still feeling some of the effects of Hurricane Irma on employment and energy use (electricity sales). Exceptional strength in port activity, along with increased retail sales activity and tourism, lifted the regional economy.

"The regional economy continued to power along but at a slightly slower pace than during the previous quarter," said Michael Toma, Ph.D., Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Economics and director of the Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research. "The lingering effects of Hurricane Irma on the forecasting index are dissipating, and signs are pointing to continued economic vitality in the second half of 2018."

Overall, the Savannah metro economy remains on an upward trajectory of healthy, sustainable growth. With the passing of Hurricane Irma in September adversely affecting some economic indicators, sufficient forward momentum propelled the economy through the lag and kept the economy on its 12-month trend of 3.5 percent annual growth in regional output.

Additional highlights from the latest Economic Monitor include:

## TOURISM

Regional tourism rebounded after the September hurricane even though boardings at the airport were flat. However, the year ended with a 16 percent increase in boardings from 2016. Hotel room sales increased 10 percent from the third quarter, closing out the year at 4.6 percent over 2016. Additionally, auto rentals increased eight percent, while alcohol sales and the number of visitors on guided tours in the city saw gains of 11 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

## PORT ACTIVITY

Activity at Savannah's port facilities soared by 13 percent compared to the previous quarter and is up 15 percent from the same time the previous year. The total number of containers handled exceeded four million in 2017, which is a record high and a gain of 10.6 percent over 2016.

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Fourth quarter employment bounced back to offset the September decline of 1,200 jobs caused by Hurricane Irma. The Coastal Empire's metro area employers added 4,600 jobs, an increase of 2.7 percent, equaling the average pace of expansion since 2010, and an improvement (up from 2.4 percent) from 2016. The fastest growing sector was construction with an increase of 200 jobs to 7,600 workers, adding 2,200 jobs since the post-recession low set in mid-2013, followed by leisure and hospitality, wholesale trade and business and professional services.

## REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate saw a slight increase to 4.2 percent; however, this remains one full percentage point below the 5.2 percent recorded in the fourth quarter of 2016.

## RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

Residential construction in the region improved over last quarter's performance. Seasonally adjusted building permit issuance for single-family homes rebounded 7.4 percent after plummeting 23 percent during the second quarter of 2017.

Building permits issued in the Savannah metro area for single-family homes increased to 443 during the quarter, compared to 413 units in the previous quarter. The average valuation of building permits for single-family homes increased 6.6 percent, rising from \$223,500 to \$238,400.

## ECONOMIC INDEX/FORECASTING INDEX

The Coastal Empire coincident economic index increased 0.61 percent from the previous quarter. The forecasting economic index increased slightly during the fourth quarter, with softness therein reflecting the passage of Hurricane Irma. Most leading indicators moved favorably during the quarter, but the dip in residential construction caused by the hurricane was not completely offset during the fourth quarter.

The Coastal Empire Economic Monitor presents quarterly economic trends and short-term economic forecasts for Savannah's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The quarterly report measures the heartbeat of the local economy, based on the analysis of economic data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the City of Savannah, Georgia Power and the three counties in the MSA—Chatham, Bryan and Effingham.

The report presents a short-term forecast of the region's economic activity in the next six to nine months and is available for free by email. To subscribe, email [mtoma@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:mtoma@georgiasouthern.edu).

The Georgia Southern Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research, housed in the College of Business's Business Innovation Group, meets the applied research needs of Savannah's business and community organizations. Areas of concentrated research include regional economic forecasting, economic impact analysis, economic development and business expansion, tourism development, survey-based research and specialty reports on topics of state, regional and local interest.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Michael Toma, Ph.D., director of the Georgia Southern University Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research, is available for interviews. Media may contact Georgia Southern's Director of Communications Jennifer Wise at 912-478-2301 or [jwise@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jwise@georgiasouthern.edu) for interview and image requests.

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# BFSDoArt presents 'Portfolio Reveal' exhibit this April

APRIL 9, 2018



The Georgia Southern University Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) will host "Portfolio Reveal," an annual exhibition of senior graphic design work, from April 12 to 24 in the Contemporary and University Galleries at the Center for Art and Theatre on the Statesboro Campus. A reception is April 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and the public is invited to attend.

"As every aspect of our culture is increasingly designed, good design can be hard to notice—like water to a fish," says BFSDoArt Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. "That's one reason I love graphic design exhibitions so much, due to their focused quality with lots of design on display. These emerging designers will be designing all sorts of things we will all be using in the future, so this exhibition is a great chance to see what kinds of great ideas and results they have worked up during their studies."

This exhibition features four years of graphic design work in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program. This advanced-level, senior capstone Graphic Design Portfolio course was taught by Ed Rushton, MFA, and Onyile Onyile, Ph.D.

"At the beginning of this semester, I had my students look deeply into themselves and the discipline of graphic design to connect design to culture, society, its users and technology," Rushton said. "They have been hard at work